

Nova Scotia finance minister named

DEATH Jamie Muir has been named the new Nova Scotia finance minister after the death last week of Michael Baker.

Muir was formerly minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, but left cabinet in January when he announced he would not run in the next election.

Muir said he still plans on retiring from provincial politics. He takes over from Chris d'Entremont, who was interim finance minister but had to balance that with his portfolios of community services and Acadian affairs.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports pg 10

Ranking the QMJHL stars

Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

• Metro Drive
Putting the brakes on car maintenance costs and keeping the mechanic away, pg 14

• Tomorrow
Food — We serve up some local meals for a steal.
• Friday
Movies — Some film suggestions to take your mind off your own financial problems.



Fashion Week

Paris style



A model wears a creation by Italian designers Maria Grazia Chiuri and Pier Paolo Piccioli for their fall/winter 2009 women's ready-to-wear line for Valentino during Paris Fashion Week yesterday.

'Best' airport in the world

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

TRAVEL Another "world winner" banner will hang inside the Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

Even with renovations and construction going on, the airport was declared the best in its category for passenger satisfaction for the sixth year in a row.

The 2008 Airport Service Quality ratings were released yesterday — awarding Halifax three first-place finishes and one sil-

ver medal.

The ratings are based on passenger surveys from each area.

Halifax won:

- Best in overall passenger satisfaction for international airports under five million passengers a year.
- First in the North America best airport category.
- First in the customer service category.
- Second behind the Central Japan Airport in the best domestic airport category.

"This is a tremendous achievement that reflects wonderfully on everyone

here," said Tom Ruth, the president and CEO of the Halifax International Airport Authority, in a statement yesterday.

"We are also so grateful for the patience and understanding of all our guests as we continue to build and grow our terminal building, our parking lots and all of our services to meet the growing demand."

Overall, Halifax placed six out of the 126 participating airports. Seoul, Singapore, Hong Kong and Central Japan finished in the top five.

NDP nabs slim lead

Latest poll puts Grits in second, Tories in third

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

A new poll suggests the MacDonald Tories have fallen into third place, while the NDP is set to win a minority government.

The Corporate Research Associates poll released yesterday puts the NDP in first with 36 per cent support. The Liberals are next at 31 per cent while the governing Conservatives have 30 per cent.

"The NDP has certainly held rock solid. Their numbers are almost consistent now for six quarters or more," said CRA president Don Mills.

"We see a real change in support, based on the statistical margin of error, for the Liberals. And we are speculating that it looks like it's come at the expense mostly of the Tories."

The poll has a margin of error of 3.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20. That puts the Conservatives and Liberals in a statistical dead heat for second place.

The Liberals seem to be luring away Tory support, jumping up four per cent since the last poll in November. The Tories dropped

three points in that time.

This is despite Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil having the lowest leader popularity rate at 22 per cent. Premier Rodney MacDonald and NDP Leader Darrell Dexter had 27 and 28 per cent respectively.

"(McNeil) is slowly building his own credibility and it does take a while to build it," Mills said. "They were pretty low, don't forget."

"Over the last year there's been quite a change in respect for the leader of the Liberal party. So progress has been made. He's just not as well known because he hasn't been around as long."

Still, because of the riding breakdown, Mills said the Liberals

aren't ready for a leadership run by the next election. His company predicts an NDP minority of 22 seats, with the Conservatives as official opposition with 17 and Liberals with 13.

The poll involved 803 Nova Scotians between Feb. 9 and 28.

Breakdown

Party support:

36% NDP

31% Liberals

30% Tories

Preferred leader:

- Darrell Dexter (N) 28%
- Rodney MacDonald (C) 27%
- Stephen McNeil (L) 22%

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Atlantic Superstore,
745 Sackville Dr.

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NEW MINAS
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County Fair Mall
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Homeowners urge to protect property from wildfires

The Nova Scotia government is urging homeowners to prepare for the upcoming fire season by protecting their homes and preventing property damage caused by forest fires. In 2008, 248 fires burned 2,721 hectares of Nova Scotia's forests and wildlands. For more information, visit www.gov.ns.ca/natr/protection. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Chug with tugs on March break

Parents might want to chug their kids down to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic over March break for a new exhibit titled TUGS!, an interactive exhibit on tugboats. The exhibit opens Saturday and runs until March 22 and features a family play, storytelling and a simulation computer game. **METRO HALIFAX**

Crisis used for political gain: Dexter

JENNIFER TAPLIN

jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

The province's opposition leader accused the premier of making political hay with his infrastructure stimulus announcement today.

Premier Rodney MacDonald is set to deliver details on his infrastructure stimulus plan this morning at a Halifax Chamber of Commerce breakfast. NDP Leader Darrell Dexter said he expects MacDonald to parade around the province dropping infrastructure funds in a lead-up to a spring election.

"I noticed recently in an interview the premier said his focus was on the election and I found that somewhat surprising. I would have expected that when it came to the stimulus package and the infrastructure program his focus would be on what's good for the province and not what's good for the Progressive



NDP Leader Darrell Dexter, pictured in this file photo, is accusing Premier Rodney MacDonald of using today's stimulus announcement for "political benefit" prior to an expected spring election.

Conservative party," Dexter said.

But that doesn't mean Dexter isn't thinking about strategizing for an election everyone knows is

coming soon.

"Every party recognizes we're going into the third year of a minority government and even majorities don't last much longer than

that," he said. "I would absolutely expect that everyone is understanding what the political timetable is, but that's a little different than using money coming

for an economic crisis for political benefit."

MacDonald has been tight-lipped about today's announcement but said in a statement yesterday it will be an overall plan and not a list of specific projects.

"I will be outlining areas of investment, and explaining how we will be funding these investments," he said.

"There have already been a number of projects put to tender, and over the coming days, there will be more of that."

Dexter said Highway 103 should be a priority.

"The 103 is acknowledged as the deadliest highway in the province," he said, adding that 10 people have died on that highway in the past year.

"It's one that has not had the attention of the government for some time."

Last week, the federal and provincial governments announced \$17.5 million to widen Highway 101.

Two men arrested after store robbed

CUSTODY Two males were arrested following the robbery of a Needs Convenience store on Lacewood Drive in Clayton Park Monday night.

Two people, aged 25 and 24, entered the store, one armed with a knife, and obtained cash and lottery tickets before leaving on foot.

The two suspects were later taken into custody by police and were to be arraigned in court yesterday.

Man charged with drug possession

TRAFFICKING A 48-year-old man appeared in court yesterday after being charged Monday night with possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking.

Halifax Regional Police did a drug search at 300 Block of Herring Cove Road and allegedly found marijuana, scales, packaging and paraphernalia.

METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

SEEKING The RCMP Halifax District is asking the public's help in finding Brian James Birt, who was last seen last Monday afternoon in Eastern Passage. Birt is a 36-year-old white male, clean-shaven with brown hair and a heavy build. He is believed to be wearing blue jeans and a black winter coat. Phone RCMP at 490-5020. **METRO HALIFAX**

June trial for man charged in YMCA alleged attack

The 19-year-old charged with attacking a 24-year-old woman in a ladies' washroom at the YMCA on South Park Street last month has a date set for trial.

Khalid Khulaif Alhardbi is charged with hostage taking, assault causing bodily harm and wearing a mask during an offence. He was in Halifax Provincial Court yesterday morning after being transported from custody.

In the three-minute proceeding, the defence and Crown agreed for the trial to begin on June 29. Last month, Alhardbi had pleaded not guilty to the three charges against him.

In the alleged attack, at 11:15 p.m. on Feb. 17, the lights went out in the washroom and the 24-year-

Exchange student

- Alhardbi, an exchange student from Saudi Arabia, was stone-faced throughout his time in court yesterday. An interpreter spoke to him during the proceedings.

old victim said she was grabbed from behind and held by a man wearing a mask. She screamed and struggled, breaking free. Her screams alerted YMCA staff and tenants, who called 9-1-1 and held the man till police got there.

The victim and the suspect charged were residents of the YMCA's student dormitory, which houses about 20 people.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX

Carvery hearing set for next year

PHILIP CROUCHER

philip.croucher@metronews.ca

Jermaine Carvery will have a preliminary hearing early next year for the more than 20 charges he faces for his alleged role in a string of robberies and for breaking away from custody.

Carvery was back at Halifax Provincial Court yesterday morning, less than 24 hours after his case was put over one day for election and show cause.

Several sheriff deputies again surrounded Carvery during his brief court appearance. They also left his leg shackles on.

Defence attorney Warren Zimmer said his client had elected for a trial by judge and jury. He also requested a preliminary



Jermaine Carvery, in this photo taken on Monday, was back in court again yesterday.

hearing, which will start on Jan. 18, 2010 and will last about six weeks.

Carvery will remain in custody until his next court appearance, which in Nova Scotia is Nov. 27 for a focus hearing.

Carvery managed to break out of his leg shackles and

escape from guards last April during a transfer from the Burnside jail to the Victoria General Hospital for day surgery. He was eventually caught two months later in Niagara Falls, Ont., and sent back to Halifax last week.

Aside from escaping custody, other charges against him include robbery, attempted robbery and hostage-taking. They stem from a string of robberies in 2004, including one at a Halifax Costco where 42 employees were confined while the thieves made off with a large quantity of cigarettes.

Carvery also has outstanding matters to deal with in Ontario in October. Nova Scotia Crown attorney Shauna MacDonald was unsure how long Carvery would remain here before heading back to Ontario.

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Charlottetown will defend its status: Council

POLITICS The City of Charlottetown is prepared to go to court to defend its role as the supreme body in the capital city, arguing that a partisan, unelected commission should not be able to veto the decision of an elected council.

In a passionate address to city council Monday night, Coun. David MacDonald called the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission a "political dinosaur" that is not accountable to anybody. He said he's tired of the cavalier approach of the commission.

Court?

• Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee said the city hasn't ruled out going to court to decide who is ultimately in charge of the city. He said the issue is much bigger than the Idle Wheels trailer park, adding the latest decision sets a dangerous precedent.

At the heart of the issue is the city's decision to deny the owner of the Idle Wheels trailer park approval to turn the trailer park into apartments. The city's decision was unanimous, but the commission overruled that decision.

It means 19 homeowners will be looking for a new place to live.

MacDonald wants the P.E.I. government to suspend the commission's authority over city affairs.

"There is absolutely no reason why the City of Charlottetown should be subject to the whims of a body with no accountability to the residents of the city of Charlottetown," MacDonald said.

Attorney general Gerard Greenan, who is responsible for the commission, could not be reached for comment. **METRO HALIFAX**

Our next great PM?

Dartmouth man makes show's final four

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

A 23-year-old Dartmouth man — who used to be the Halifax Mooseheads' mascot — is running for prime minister.

Well, on TV that is.

Robert Marsh, who spent a year in the "Hal" mascot suit in 2003, was chosen as one of the four finalists in CBC's Canada's Next Great Prime Minister.

So how would entertaining as a mascot prepare him for Canada's top political job?

"I think the biggest thing would be dealing with people," he said. "Hal didn't have a voice, but he had a personality."

A lot of people have good ideas when it comes to politics, but it takes "unique" individuals to actually inspire others to come together, he said.

"I mean, Barack Obama doesn't have mascot experience, but he still has good rallying and connecting experience."

After competing in debates and challenges, four young people are chosen to compete for the love of four judges and a studio audience.

The judges aren't Randy and Paula, but rather four

former prime ministers: Brian Mulroney, Joe Clark, Kim Campbell and Paul Martin.

The audience chooses the winner who takes home \$50,000 and paid internships at Magna International, The Dominion Institute and the Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program.

The show airs March 18, but it was filmed in February. Marsh was sworn to secrecy until the air date.

"Friends are asking me strategic questions every day to see how I'll answer them, like if I have any new clothes," he said.

"I can't wait until next Wednesday because I won't have to hide anything from anyone."

Marsh will be watching it in Toronto where he works for an insurance company.

The former student council president at Prince Andrew high school, has been in Ontario for a few years now since going to school there.

"I'll never identify myself as a Torontonian, which is no offence to my Toronto friends and colleagues," said Marsh, who intends to come home eventually.

"Every reason I'm here is because of my experiences on the East Coast."

"I'll never identify myself as a Torontonian which is no offence to my Toronto friends and colleagues ... Every reason I'm here is because of my experiences on the east coast."

Robert Marsh on being chosen to show



Dartmouth's Robert Marsh has been chosen as one of the four finalists in CBC's Canada Next Great Prime Minister. The final show is set to air on March 18.

School zone request slow to get going

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

POLITICS The wheels of democracy inched ever so slowly towards lowering speed limits in Halifax last night.

But only after three HRM councillors walked out in frustration during the lengthy debate.

It started innocently, with Clayton Park West Coun. Mary Wile proposing a motion to council to lower

speed limits in school zones to 30 km/h.

But the municipality can't do that alone. So the motion was changed to writing a letter to the province asking for permission to lower the speed limits — maybe.

That was deemed too forward by some councillors, who instead proposed to have staff talk informally with the province about the possibility of writing a letter to them about the speed limit issue.

As the motion dove farther into bureaucratic limbo and amendments were piled onto amendments, councillors began to argue over not only the motion, but what the motion even meant. Dartmouth Centre Coun. Gloria McCluskey, Middle and Upper Sackville-Lucasville Coun. Brad Johns and Albro Lake-Harbourview Coun. Jim Smith stormed off in exasperation. But eventually council decided to send the letter after all.

Debate

• Even if council does get the power to lower limits, it is very much divided over whether to do so. Some councillors see it as improving safety, while others say it would be ineffective.

News in brief

UPCOMING Coun. Sue Uteck will host the training program graduation and celebration

ceremony for the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of

Canada (NOIVMWC) Friday at Halifax City Hall at 1 p.m. Halifax is one of the six cities

across Canada that are taking part.

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Prize cars should be Canadian-made: Ontario

Ontario's Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman is upset that the province's lottery commission has purchased foreign-made Mercedes-Benz cars to use as prizes. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

5

Canada

Stimulus money to be spent quickly, PM says

Ottawa will start pouring \$20 billion of stimulus spending into the economy on April 1 as part of its plan to fight off the global financial crisis, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in an upbeat speech yesterday.

Harper, whose minority Conservative government plans to spend \$40 billion in stimulus over the next two fiscal years, said his officials had slashed red tape to ensure the money could be spent quickly.

"As a result, by April 1, the government will be able to start pumping \$20 billion directly into the economy, representing close to 90 per cent of the stimulus for this fiscal year," he said in the

Job numbers 'not likely to be good'

The Canadian economy will have a difficult 2009, and jobs data due later this week will be the latest evidence that it is being hit hard by the global eco-

nomie slowdown, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday. "These numbers are not likely to be good," Flaherty told the Senate's finance committee.

prepared text of a speech in Brampton, Ont.

Harper said the government would make most of the stimulus funding available on April 1, and said the rest would be available within five months.

The spending will rack up \$64 billion in budget deficits over the next two fiscal years. Harper repeated his line that the deficits would be temporary.

The prime minister, criti-

cized for mishandling the economic downturn, said the government's actions would ensure that Canada emerged in the best position of any advanced nation.

"Canada was the last advanced country to fall into this recession. We will make sure its effects here are the least severe and we will come out of this faster than anyone and stronger than ever."

REUTERS

May may run in B.C. byelection

POLITICS Green Leader Elizabeth May says she would consider running for a seat in a soon-to-be-vacant riding out west, but will not make up her mind until a byelection is called.

New Democrat MP Dawn Black announced over the weekend she would resign her federal seat in the British Columbia riding of New Westminster-Coquitlam to run in the May 12 provincial election.

May has said repeatedly since losing to Defence Minister Peter MacKay in Central Nova last October that she would be willing to run in a byelection anywhere else in the country. But she was noncommittal yesterday about trying to replace Black.

"I don't rule it out, but I can't make any decisions in the context of which we might have a general election before a byelection," she said. "Until the timing is clear and the writ is dropped, I won't be making any decisions."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LISTERIA A proposed \$25-million settlement in a class-action lawsuit against Maple Leaf Foods over last year's listeriosis outbreak was approved yesterday by a judge in Saskatchewan, moving the case toward a conclusion.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Vancouver Another shooting



A police officer comforts a distraught woman who showed up at the scene of a shooting that left two people dead inside an apartment yesterday in Vancouver. Since mid-January, there have been 33 shooting incidents in Vancouver and the surrounding area.

Pushing for Arctic sovereignty

TERRITORY Canada is stepping up diplomatic efforts to protect its Arctic sovereignty, a move that comes as other northern nations eye the vast area's resource wealth and melting ice invites new shipping.

In a speech today, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon will make clear Ottawa's claim

on its Arctic territory, a message he then intends to take directly to Canada's northern neighbours over the coming months.

"As the prime minister stated many times, if someone threatens our Arctic sovereignty, we will push back," one federal official said, speaking on background. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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World



Hair could tell response: Researchers

A hair sample analysis could be more effective than a blood test in determining if anti-AIDS drugs are effective in patients, researchers said. Dr. Monica Gandhi, of the University of California, San Francisco, said blood levels may not reflect how well the patient is adhering to treatment, but hair samples reflect drug exposure over time.

REUTERS

No progress in UN drug campaign, report says

DRUGS A United Nations campaign to cut supply and demand for illegal drugs has shown no progress globally in the decade since it was launched, a European Commission report said yesterday.

The report came on the eve of a ministerial-level meeting by the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna to review the decade since a UN general assembly session (UNGASS) set the targets and launched the war on drugs.

Papering over internal dissent over how to make anti-drug policy more effective, UN members are expected to sign a declaration committing themselves to the programme to fight the drug trade for another 10 years.

The European Commission report said enforcing drug bans had backfired by displacing drug traffickers to relatively lawless regions. The ban had led to addicts sharing needles — spreading disease — as syringe-exchange centres have been unavailable.

Cocaine and heroin consumption had declined in the West but had risen to become “a serious epidemic” in parts of eastern Europe and central Asia, producing a net increase globally since 1998, said the report.

“(We have) found no evidence that the global drug problem was reduced during the UNGASS period from 1998 to 2007. Broadly speaking the situation has improved a little in some of the richer countries while for others it worsened.”

REUTERS

News in brief

SHOOTING A shooting in southern Alabama killed at least 10 people yesterday afternoon, including the gunman, police confirmed. The shooting happened in Samson, Ala., about 15 miles from the Florida border, a police dispatcher told CNN.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Irish, Brits talk peace

Backlash fears raised after policeman, soldiers slain

Irish and British politicians vowed yesterday to defend the peace process between Northern Ireland's Protestants and Catholics after attacks on security forces by republican dissidents threatened a return to conflict.

The Continuity IRA killed a policeman on Monday two days after another splinter group shot dead two British soldiers at an army base, in attacks that raised fears of a backlash from pro-British loyalists.

“These people, a small group of evil people, have the capacity to kill and to

Grim history

- Stephen Carroll, 48, who was shot on Monday night, was the first policeman killed in Northern Ireland since 1998, when the IRA along with pro-British Protestant guerrilla

groups agreed to cease hostilities.

- By then, sectarian violence had killed more than 3,600 people in Northern Ireland in some 30 years of “Troubles.”

maim,” said Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin at a news conference with British ministers.

“What they don't have is the capacity to undermine the advances that we've made in society on the island of Ireland.”

A 1998 power-sharing agreement has brought

relative calm to Northern Ireland after 30 years of bloodshed between minority Irish Republican Catholics and pro-British Protestants.

The Continuity IRA and the Real IRA, which claimed Saturday's attack, oppose the peace settlement and have pledged to

keep up their fight until British rule is overthrown and Ireland united.

They do not have widespread support within the province's Catholic community, with a membership in the low hundreds. But their actions have the potential to fuel violence.

“That has to be a worry that there will be a reaction from loyalist paramilitaries who have more or less gone off the pitch,” Ireland's Justice Minister Dermot Ahern said.

A 17- and a 37-year-old, were arrested in connection with the policeman's killing, police said. REUTERS

Severed heads dumped in ice cooler

GANG WAR Suspected drug gang hitmen dumped five severed human heads in ice coolers on a road in western Mexico yesterday with a message threatening rivals, a state attorney general's office said.

Police patrolling a highway on the edge of the Mexican colonial city of Guadalajara found the heads inside five coolers left on the roadside, the Jalisco state attorney general's office said.

“They were recently severed heads, cut off about four hours before they were found,” a spokesman said, adding police found a message left by apparent drug hitmen threatening rival gangs. The victims' identities were not disclosed.

Torturing and beheading rivals is common in Mexico's increasingly vicious drug war, which killed more than 6,000 people last year and shows no sign of abating this year despite the deployment of 45,000 troops across the country.

REUTERS

Charles accused of quackery

ROYALTY Prince Charles has been accused of quackery and exploitation over his Duchy Originals food company's promotion of a “detox” tincture made from artichoke and dandelion.

Edzard Ernst, professor of complementary medicine at Peninsula Medical School in Exeter, said Charles is exploiting a gullible public at a time of financial hardship.

A long-standing critic of alternative medicines such as homeopathy, Ernst said there is no evidence that detox products work. “Prince Charles contributes to the ill health of the nation by pretending we can all overindulge,” he said.

REUTERS

Kashmir Special day of worship



A Muslim raises his hands as he looks at the relic of Mohammed on display during the Eid Milad-un-Nabi festival at the Hazratbal shrine in Indian Kashmir yesterday. Tens of thousands of Kashmiri Muslims offered special prayers during the anniversary of the birth of Mohammed.

Dalai Lama denounces Chinese presence in Tibet

ASIA The Dalai Lama said yesterday more and more Chinese were beginning to see a problem with Beijing's rule over Tibet, lamenting how the homeland he fled 50 years ago had become a “hell on earth.”

Speaking before some 10,000 Tibetans from around the world, the 73-

year-old slammed China for bringing “untold suffering and destruction” during a series of repressive, violent campaigns in Tibet since 1959.

“These thrust Tibetans into such depths of suffering and hardship that they literally experienced hell on earth,” he said from the main Buddhist

temple in Dharamsala, India, where the Tibetan government-in-exile is based.

“The immediate result of these campaigns was the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Tibetans.”

China tightened security across ethnic Tibetan areas, aiming to head off potential unrest on the

50th anniversary of an uprising that prompted the Dalai Lama's flight into exile in India.

Monks said they were under close surveillance and riot police blocked roads and turned away foreign journalists from parts of Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai provinces.

REUTERS

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Comment

A sign of the times

The WestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

Every Sunday morning at my house, a miracle happens. It's not what you're thinking; although it's the closest thing I have to a spiritual experience.

Because every Sunday morning the Sunday New York Times arrives on my doorstep.

There it is, brimming with substance, weighing in at five pounds (although it's gone on a diet lately) stuffed with "All the News That's Fit to Print," the world's greatest newspaper.

I sit down with a mug of fresh coffee and get lost for a couple of hours with great columnists, fantastic reporting from around

the globe and the New York Times Book Review, my very favourite thing. Via the Sunday Times, I reconnect weekly with the best of civilization.

So how can it be that this miracle is in jeopardy? That the Times, along with at least a dozen other major U.S. newspapers and Canwest, Canada's biggest newspaper chain, are in danger of dying if they aren't, like the Rocky Mountain News in Denver, already dead?

Well, it's a long story, kids, and because it is happening to journalists, it is being reported with extreme diligence. Check out: mediafade.blogspot.com, poynter.org or

j-source.ca for obsessive coverage. And for the unthinkable demise of the Times, go to theatlantic.com and read End Times: Can America's paper of record survive the death of newsprint? Can journalism? Shiver.

The newspaper industry is partially to blame for its own troubles: It has been slow and erratic in its response to the challenge of online and mobile news. You could argue it is a senseless act of wanton destruction to kill trees to publish the National Post. But the industry can hardly be blamed for the demise of the economy or that advertising revenue is drying up faster than ink on the page.

And while I admire the feistiness and pluck of the Metro chain and its commuter model, I have to wonder what

happens the day the big metro dailies die.

The coffee-mug-half-empty analysis is that newspapers and their hand-somely funded newsrooms are the wellspring of the news and all the others — TV, radio and Google — are mainly parasites. And we're going to find out just what we've lost when they're gone.

But the coffee-mug-half-full analysis is that while it will change, the news will never die. People will always want to know what's going on and there will always be people with a nose for news who are ready to tell them. Does it matter how we get it, as long as we get it? And anyway, there's no news in a newspaper. By the time we get it, it's a museum, full of stuff we read online at least 24 hours ago. Let it go.

So why can't I let go? I guess I'm finally going to have to face it. While I was standing by the window waiting for the Times, the times just passed me by.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



VANCOUVER:



MICHAEL DE ADER

Worth mentioning

Sea levels rising faster than expected: Scientists

The U.N.'s climate change panel may be severely underestimating the sea-level rise caused by global warming, climate scientists said recently, calling for swift cuts in greenhouse emissions.

"The sea-level rise may well exceed one metre by 2100 if we continue on our path of increasing emissions," said Stefan Rahmstorf, professor at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. "Even for a low emission scenario, the best estimate is about one metre."

Rahmstorf spoke at the International Scientific Congress on Climate Change in Copenhagen. The U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2007 predicted global warming would cause sea levels to rise by between seven inches and 23 inches this century. The IPCC said at the time the estimate could not accurately take into account factors

such as the melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. Many scientists criticized the number as too conservative.

"The ice loss in Greenland shows an acceleration during the last decade," said veteran Greenland researcher Konrad Steffen, director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

John Church, a researcher at the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research in Hobart, said rising oceans will lead to more frequent devastating floods in coastal areas.

The faster humans limit carbon dioxide emissions, the greater the chance to avoid the most extreme scenarios, he said.

"We could pass a threshold during the 21st century that can commit the world to metres of sea-level rise," he said. "Short-term emission goals are critical."

REUTERS

Word on the street: Do you believe news media play an important role in today's society?

Alex Allen
Halifax

A: I believe yes. It gets us all involved and everyone knows what's going on. Everybody can upgrade.

Bryce Thompson
Halifax

A: I work in a factory environment, and without the news, I wouldn't know what's going on in this recession.

Elizabeth Web
Halifax

A: It does play an important role. You got the weather and stuff like that. Just figuring out what goes on in the world.

Louieza Skaf
age 26, Ottawa

A: Of course. It gives us information and desensitizes us from what's going on in the world. It also prepares us.

Gia Smith
age 39, Calgary

A: Yes, because of the media, people get all the information they need and rely on.

Karl Williams
age 45, Vancouver

A: Definitely. Just because of all the current events that are brought out every day.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

eBay seeks OK for employee option exchange program
stock options for restricted stock units at a set ratio, according to a U.S. regulatory filing. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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AIG bailout generous to banks, investors say

FUNDS The \$173-billion US government rescue of American International Group Inc. is stoking resentment among investors who see it as a backdoor taxpayer bailout of banks such as Goldman Sachs.

AIG continues to bleed red ink and its stock and bond holders have been crushed, but one group has suffered almost no damage: Banks that bought credit protection from AIG Financial Products.

Regulatory filings show that since the Federal Reserve announced its rescue of AIG on Sept. 15, about \$50 billion of government money has passed through the company to banks.

"Treasury is providing a massive wealth transfer from taxpayers to Goldman Sachs and other parties, and it's something that absolutely should be investigated," said Eric Hovde, CEO of Hovde Capital Advisors. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

CAW The results of the vote by members of the Canadian Auto Workers union on a tentative cost-saving deal with General Motors Canada are expected late today.

FORECAST Ballard Power Systems said yesterday that it does not expect to turn a profit in 2009, based on the Canadian fuel cell developer's growth forecasts. **REUTERS**

From traffic to electricity

Company looking to roads, railways for source of energy

An Israeli energy startup wants to turn irritating rush hour traffic into a source of electricity.

Innowattech, a company affiliated with Israel's Technion Institute of Technology, said special generators placed under roads, railways and runways can harvest enough energy from passing vehicles to mass-produce electricity.

The generators contain material that produces electricity when mechanical force is applied, like the pressure from a passing car's tires.

The process, known as piezoelectricity, has been used for years on a smaller scale, including in barbecue lighters and a dance club where dancers' feet light the floor. **REUTERS**

Timeline

• Innowattech's Uri Amit said the first pilot program will begin in the coming months on a 30-metre strip of highway outside Tel Aviv, and that similar projects could start internationally in 2010.

Uri Amit, chairman of Innowattech, said the company's technology will be the largest application of piezoelectrics to date, with a single one-kilometre lane of highway providing enough energy to power about 40 houses.

But the technology has its limitations since it can collect a steady flow of electricity only from busy roads and rails. **REUTERS**

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The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Gateways sign deal:

The Churchill Gateway Development Corp. and the Halifax Gateway Council yesterday announced the signing of an agreement to jointly pursue mutual opportunities for grain exports and northern business ventures.

Richmond County gets high-speed Internet:

Seaside High-Speed announced yesterday that high-speed Internet is now available in the communities of Cleveland, Grantville, Hureauville, Lower River Inhabitants and Kempt Road.

Vitest to sell MedMira products in Africa:

MedMira Inc. announced yesterday that it has established a private-label partnership with Switzerland-based Vitest AG. MedMira rapid HIV tests will be marketed and sold in Africa under the Vitest brand.

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DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ
nsbj.ca

U-20 Canadians look to advance

Canada can advance at the CONCACAF U-20 men's soccer championships today with a win against Costa Rica in Trinidad. Bayside's Derek Gaudet is a member of the team. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

Sports



Roberts retires

Gary Roberts ended his 21-year NHL career yesterday, announcing his retirement during a conference call. The move was expected after the Tampa Bay Lightning placed the veteran forward on waivers last week and he was not claimed. Roberts, who began his career with the Flames, played his final NHL game in Calgary on March 1. He retires with 438 goals, 471 assists and 2,560 penalty minutes. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Mooseheads seek streak

Winning last four games would guarantee spot in the playoffs

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads' season has come down to a realistic, achievable task: Win four straight games.

Sounds easy, right? Not so fast.

Sixty-four games into the QMJHL season, and the last-place Mooseheads' longest winning streak is a measly two games. And they've only managed to do that twice.

The Mooseheads are hoping to break new ground in the next five days as they play their final four games of the season starting tonight when they visit the P.E.I. Rocket.

If the Mooseheads win every game, they will pass the Val-d'Or Foreurs and Lewiston Maineiacs and qualify for the playoffs — no matter what the other two teams do.

"Our fate is in our own hands," Mooseheads head coach and general manager Cam Russell said simply.

The Mooseheads are 18-39-3-4 with 43 points and could finish with the franchise's lowest point total of all time. The 2003-04 entry, the only Mooseheads team in the past 14 seasons not to make the playoffs, finished with 44 points.

Val-d'Or and Lewiston are tied three points ahead of Halifax, but each has just two games remaining. Halifax must pass both teams to make the playoffs.

The Mooseheads typically travel to Charlottetown on game day, but took the bus up yesterday to get settled.

"We wanted to make sure the players recognized the importance of



The Halifax Mooseheads will be looking to their leading scorer, Tomas Knotek, as they attempt to win all four of their remaining games and qualify for the playoffs.

this game," Russell said. "We wanted to make sure they were in a controlled environment, make sure they're well-fed and rested, so we can get the best out of them."

The Mooseheads will be looking for contributions from everyone, particularly leading scorer Tomas Knotek, who has just two assists and is a minus-11 in his past six outings.

After tonight's contest, the Mooseheads return home for three games in three days at the Metro

Centre. They host the Saint John Sea Dogs on Friday and Saturday and welcome the Acadie-Bathurst Titan for the season finale on Sunday. Because all three opponents have already qualified for the playoffs, the Mooseheads might catch a break.

"You can get a little bit of luck," Russell said. "You can run into a backup goalie or a team resting top players."

• Guillaume Pelletier returned to practice this week from a broken

Playoff race

• Here's a look at the QMJHL playoff race heading into tonight's game. The bottom two teams don't qualify.

	Pts	Games left
Val-d'Or	46	2
Lewiston	46	2
Halifax	43	4

kneecap ... A shoulder injury continues to plague Matt Boland ... Sunday's game was moved from 2 to 4 p.m.

Three X-Men told they'll miss Final 8

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

BASKETBALL Halifax basketball standout Tyler Richards appears to have played his last game for the St. Francis Xavier X-Men.

The four-time first-team AUS all-star has been told by school administration he will not be in uniform at the Final 8 Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa this weekend. The ruling also stands for Richards' teammates, Eamon Morrissy and William Donkoh.

The three X-Men were charged on March 1 with assault causing bodily harm and will appear in court on May 4. A St. FX investigation into the matter is ongoing.

All three were out of the lineup when the X-Men lost to the Dalhousie Tigers in Sunday's AUS final.

"Nothing has changed since last week — they will

remain out of uniform this weekend," said St. FX athletic director Leo MacPherson. "I was waiting to see how the internal investigation had progressed, but there is no new information."

The players can still practice with the team and will travel to Ottawa to sit on the bench in street clothes.

Richards, a fifth-year, six-foot-two guard, is one of the most decorated players in AUS history. He finished

his career with 1,526 points in 96 games, placing him 13th on the conference's all-time list and second to Fred Perry in St. FX history.

MacPherson said his decision on the Final 8 will only change if the internal investigation wraps up before the tournament starts, a scenario he called "highly unlikely."

The X-Men are seeded eighth for the Final 8 and will face the No. 1-ranked Carleton Ravens on Friday at 9 p.m.



Richards

Martin, Howard still perfect

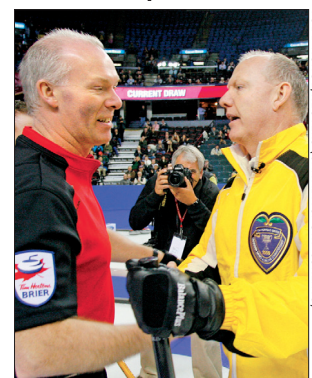
CURLING Kevin Martin and Glen Howard appear on a collision course for a rematch of last year's final at the Tim Hortons Brier.

Martin, the reigning national and world champion, and Howard, who won the double-crown in 2007, have separated from the pack with perfect 7-0 records after four days at the Canadian men's curling championship in Calgary.

Martin's Edmonton rink thumped British Columbia's Sean Geall 8-2 in the morning and then blasted Prince Edward Island's Rod MacDonald 11-4 in the afternoon.

Howard beat up on his older brother, Russ Howard of New Brunswick, 7-2 in the morning draw and then took down Jeff Stoughton of Manitoba 8-5 last night.

Howard faces Jamie Koe of Northwest/Yukon territories this morning and Quebec's Jean-Michel Menard in the afternoon.



Ontario skip Glenn Howard, left, and his brother New Brunswick skip Russ Howard shake hands at the end of their draw after Ontario defeated New Brunswick.

Martin, meanwhile, plays Northern Ontario's Mike Jakubo in the afternoon and Stoughton in the evening.

Brad Gushue of Newfoundland and Labrador is in third at 5-2.

Nova Scotia's Mark Dacey, a Mayflower skip and the 2004 Brier champ, lost to Gushue last night to fall to 2-5. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports in brief

AWARDS Dalhousie Tigers guard Simon Farine was named Atlantic University Sport male athlete of the week yesterday. He averaged 29.6 points per game and was MVP in leading Dal to its first AUS men's basketball title since 1996. **METRO HALIFAX**

For more sports coverage visit: **metronews.ca**

NHL GMs are ready to ban staged fights

PENALTIES The National Hockey League appears poised to reduce fighting.

NHL general managers proposed at the GM meetings yesterday that a 10-minute misconduct penalty be given to players who engage in staged fights after a faceoff. They also suggested that the instigator rule be more strictly enforced, particularly in cases where a



player wearing a visor initiates a fight or a player drops the gloves after a teammate has been body-checked.

Of the first 500 fights this season, the NHL says 108 occurred right after a face-off. Another 118 came in instances where a player was responding to a teammate getting hit.

That number has risen sharply over the years because of the trend where players begin fights after almost any teammate gets hit. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Across^{the} Atlantic



The best of the Atlantic

Metro polled experts from the Q to get real story

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



Metro Halifax has determined the best and worst of the QMJHL's Atlantic Division in 36 categories, and will release the results 12 categories per day in a three-part series this week.

Today is our second installment.

We polled the hockey operations staffs for all six teams in the division to determine the results, awarding three points to

On the web

Full voting results:

- The full voting for today's categories will be made available on Matthew Wuest's Q Files blog at noon today. Check it out on our website at www.metronews.ca/qfiles.

category winners and one point to runners-up.

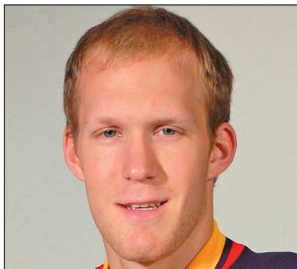
To eliminate bias, participants polled were not permitted to vote for players on their own teams.

Most Underrated

Spencer Jezegou, Bathurst

He doesn't get much attention, but the 20-year-old is quietly Bathurst's best player and leader.

RUNNER-UP: Three-way tie.



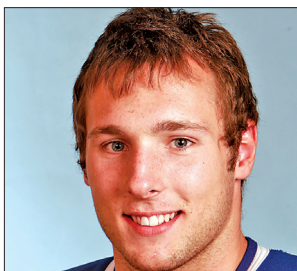
Spencer Jezegou

Best in Goal Area

Scott Brannon, Moncton

The Churchville, Pictou Co., native is the Atlantic's "Cy Young" winner, with twice as many goals as assists.

RUNNER-UP: Five-way tie.



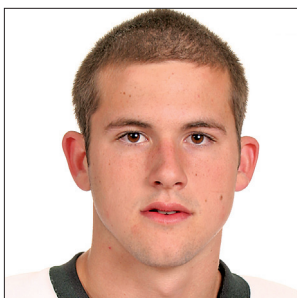
Scott Brannon

Best Power Forward

Robert Slaney, Cape Breton

The 6-foot-2, 204-pounder blends skill and brawn and can go through you or around you to score.

RUNNER-UP (TIE): Joey Haddad (Cape Breton), Scott Brannon (Moncton).



Robert Slaney

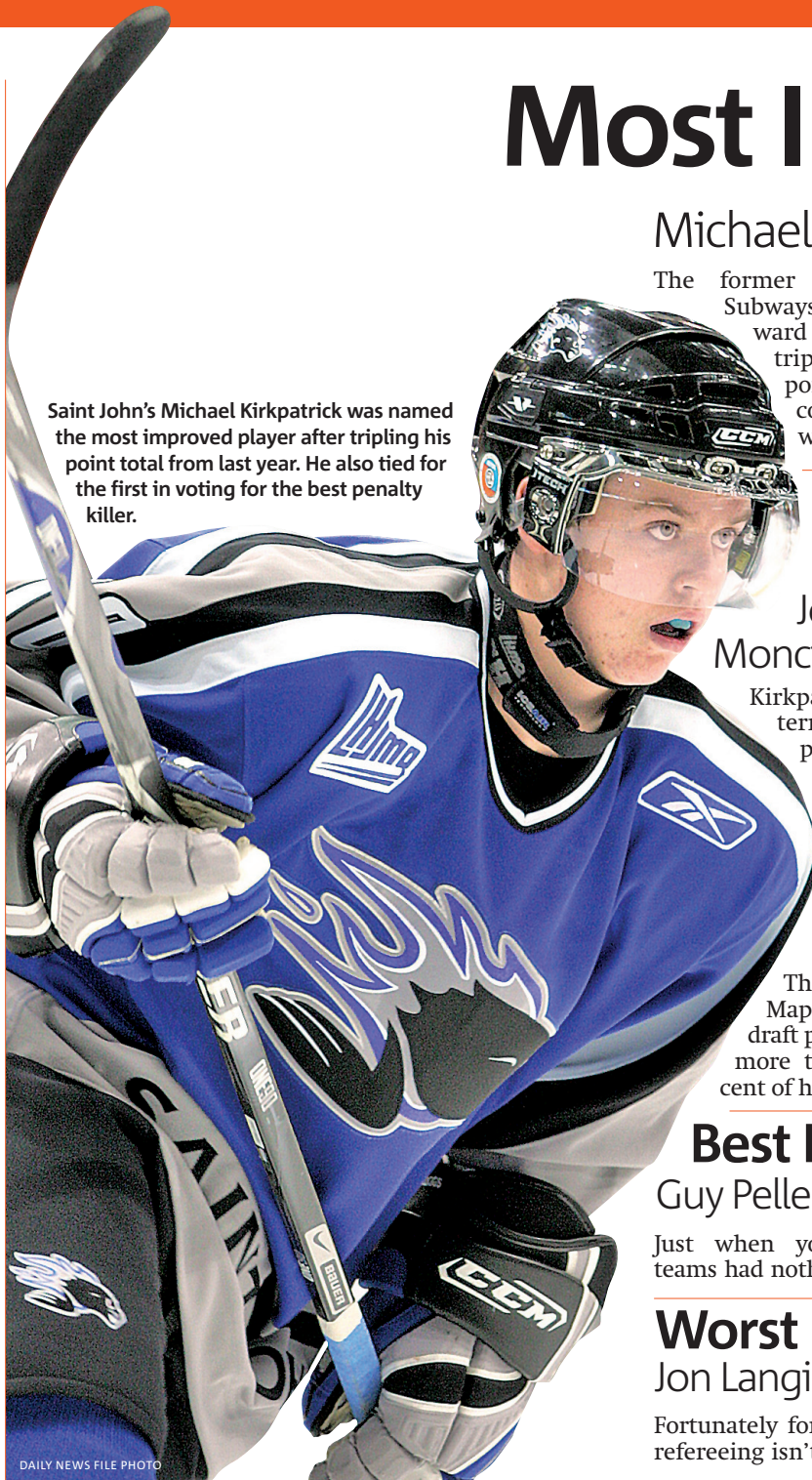
Most Improved

Michael Kirkpatrick, Saint John

The former Dartmouth Subways star forward has nearly tripled his point total and could finish with close to 40 goals. He's become one of Saint John's cornerstones for the future.

RUNNER-UP (TIE): David Savard (Moncton), Nicolas Chouinard (Cape Breton).

Saint John's Michael Kirkpatrick was named the most improved player after tripling his point total from last year. He also tied for the first in voting for the best penalty killer.



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Best Penalty Killer

Michael Kirkpatrick, Saint John; and Nicola Riopel, Moncton

Kirkpatrick has terrific anticipation and a quick stick; Riopel's goaltending denies sure scoring chances.

RUNNER-UP: Zach Sill (Moncton).

Best Faceoff Man

Joel Champagne, P.E.I.

The Toronto Maple Leafs draft pick has won more than 61 per cent of his draws.

RUNNER-UP (TIE): Eric Faille (Bathurst), Michael Kirkpatrick (Saint John), Robert Slaney (Cape Breton).

Best Referee

Guy Pellerin

Just when you thought teams had nothing good to say about refs.

RUNNER-UP: Jean Hebert.

Worst Referee

Jon Langille and Brad Mills

Fortunately for these two, refereeing isn't a popularity contest.

RUNNER-UP: Thayer Doyle.

Best Coach and Best General Manager

Danny Flynn, Moncton

Danny Flynn, Moncton

The Dartmouth native is a former NHL assistant and has helped the Wildcats exceed pre-season expectations.

Moncton was still digging out from a Memorial Cup when Flynn took over. His shrewd moves turned them around in a year.

RUNNER-UP: Mario Durocher (Cape Breton).

RUNNER-UP: Sylvain Couturier (Bathurst).



Danny Flynn

Best on Breakaways and Best Captain

Chris Culligan, Cape Breton

Chris Culligan, Cape Breton

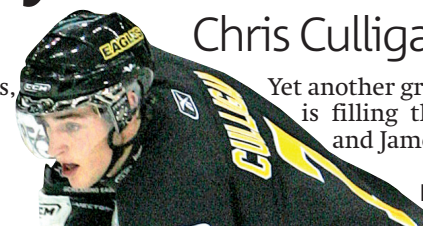
He's the last guy teams want to face in shootouts, with his deadly combination of skills and smarts.

Yet another great Eagles captain, Culligan is filling the skates of Dean Ouellet and James Sheppard just fine.

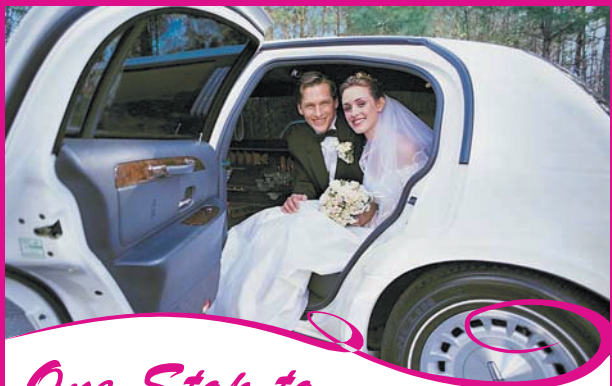
RUNNER-UP: Robert Slaney (Cape Breton).

RUNNER-UP: Matt Eagles (Moncton).

Cape Breton's Chris Culligan was named the top Captain.



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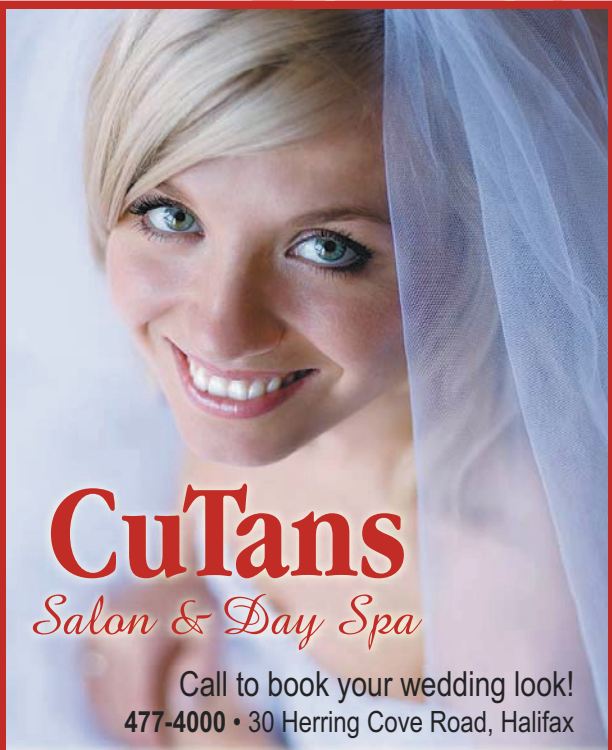
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Travel



Don't knock Vegas

Las Vegas casino legend Sheldon Adelson has launched a quest for America's most boring city in a comeback to President Barack Obama's criticism of bankers who hold meetings in the famous gaming capital. Obama last month warned companies that get bailout cash against spending it on activities potentially seen as perks — sparking a row with hotel and resort operators who say they are already struggling to fill rooms. **REUTERS**

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Caye Caulker's laid-back lifestyle

Belize backpacker haven is quite content to fly under the radar

DAVID WHITLEY
for Metro Canada



As the sun slowly crawls down the skyline, the cares of the world are far away. At a table almost enveloped in water, a group sits in their swimwear, knocking back beers number eight and nine.

They're cheering on the guys by the diving board, who are attempting ever more ambitious plunges into the fast-flowing channel that divides the two halves of the island.

The crowd gathered at the Lazy Lizard bar are a clue to what Caye Caulker offers. Off the coast of Belize and situated next to the world's second biggest barrier reef, it has become something of a secret backpacker hotspot.

Caye Caulker doesn't have any beach worth speaking of, and this is arguably what helps it to retain its character. The resorts are never going to take over in the same way that they have on Ambergris Caye further north purely because the masses have no sandy stretches to lie on.

It's an island of bright clapboard guesthouses, an anything goes attitude and a slow, shuffling pace. Within minutes of arriving, hectic hurrying is reduced to a contented shamble along the colourful main drag, and two-for-one daiquiris before lunch seem mighty tempting.

It's a seriously relaxed



A view of the waterfront in Caye Caulker. Because the destination doesn't have the same kind of sandy stretches as Ambergris Caye to the north, resorts haven't taken over.

place. Everything works on island time, happy hours last "until everyone is happy," and any sartorial advance on shorts and flip-flops is completely overdressed.

Many visitors to Caye Caulker are lured by diving or snorkelling trips with rays and manatees, but stay because of the vibe. It's the sort of place that sucks people in.

Many will come for two days, extend for a couple more and before they know it, they've not seen their family for 12 years.

Hence, the ranks of those that live on Caye Caulker are multinational. Boat

skippers from Nicaragua, crew from Canada, dive shop managers from the UK and grocery store owners from China are common.

It's a place where the party is never planned, but one could break out at any time. A quiet bar can morph into a sin-packed reggae club in which some of the dirtiest bumping and grinding imaginable takes place.

And then the next morning, one of those dancers may well turn out to be the captain of the reef trip boat. Turning up 40 minutes late for the tour with a pounding head, then throwing a

series of empty beer bottles off his rainbow-coloured vessel before departure is absolutely par for the course.

But if you finally do get out into the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, it's a wonderful playground. It becomes something of an aquatic highlights reel. Alongside the manatees and rays are sharks (not the man-eating variety), eels, barracudas and turtles. Throw in brain coral and thousands of brightly coloured fish, and snorkelers are pretty much guaranteed to hit the jackpot.

Despite this, the reef is just a pleasant bonus for



Drinking at the table in the pool at the Lazy Lizard.

Caye Caulker

- There are no direct flights to Belize City from Canada — flights with American Airlines, aa.com, from major hubs generally involve a change in Miami.
- From Belize City, it's necessary to get a ferry to Caye Caulker. Geckos Adventures,

geckosadventures.com, has a 10-day tour between Cancun, Mexico and Antigua, Guatemala, which stops off at Caye Caulker for two nights.

- Visit gocayecaulker.com.

DAVID WHITLEY/
FOR METRO CANADA

those that kick back on Caye Caulker.

If there's one place that perfectly captures the island's ridiculously laid-back vibe, it's Jolly Roger's Grill. To call it a restaurant would be going a little bit far — it's just one man and his oil can barbecue, with a few tables scattered by the beach. There are generally only two or three menu options, and the dishes come served in polystyrene boxes.

Doesn't sound all that promising, does it? But the old adage of never trusting a skinny chef comes into play here. Roger is enormous, and as jolly as the name of the restaurant sug-

gests.

He also makes the best snapper in garlic sauce you'll ever taste, and routinely grills lobsters for virtually nothing, as if they were common-or-garden chicken fillets from a budget supermarket.

Nothing fazes him — if 20 people turn up at once, he just dishes out free rum punches while he cooks, and sends a friend down to what passes for a supermarket in order to get some hot sauce.

He's Caye Caulker through and through — a drink, a smile and a "no problem" is the cure for all ills.

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Er, what did you say?

The travel website VirtualTourist.com has come up with a list of the World's Top 10 Most Misprounced Places, and lists Phuket, Thailand at No. 1. Since advice on the correct pronunciation can vary, the site says "Pu-get" is the safest option. **REUTERS**

Sussing out Kiev's hippest highlights

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Dubbed "the mother of Slavic cities," the Ukrainian capital of Kiev is a growing destination for international tourists. This former Soviet hub is not only rich in history, architecture and tradition — it's a cosmopolitan city of trendy cafes, cool hangouts and stylish nightclubs.

Where to stay: For modern accommodations with all the comforts of home, the Hyatt Regency Kiev is the best choice. Located in the heart of the city, the hotel is within walking distance of some of the top tourist attractions, including St. Sophia's Cathedral and St. Michael's Monastery. In a country where very little English is spoken and taxi



A view over Kiev from the Vidubichi monastery.

drivers are keen to scam foreigners, it sure is helpful to have bilingual concierges on hand.

Where to shop: The main strip of Khreshchatyk has everything from Puma to Nike, Mango to Zara and Soviet-era department stores to Louis Vuitton and

Gucci. On weekends they close the strip to cars, making retail therapy all the more pedestrian friendly.

Where to buy Communist-era kitsch: Strolling along the winding cobblestone streets in front of St. Andrew's Baroque cathedral, you'll find a whack of

kitschy communist souvenirs such as gas masks, Lenin T-shirts, Russian wooden dolls, Stalin shot glasses and Ukrainian crafts. Just a few steps away you'll find the heart of the Ukrainian art community. On summer afternoons, sidewalks are lined with original artworks.

Where to eat: Koureni, one of the oldest restaurants in Kiev, serves up traditional Ukrainian cuisine in a quaint garden setting. Overlooking the Dnieper River, Koureni has a killer view of the city and some of the tastiest pancakes with caviar.

If you're craving international cuisine try Avalon, a seafood restaurant with an underwater, mermaid-inspired decor, or Nobu, a venue known for its sushi, sashimi and other Japanese dishes.

Where to party: Buddha Bar is relatively new to the Kiev club scene. Following in the footsteps of Buddha Bars in Paris and New York City, Buddha Bar Kiev is a

dinner club with pan-Asian cuisine and a reputation for glamour. While VIPs groove to deep house, could-be-models scan for rich future husbands. Parties move from the restaurant's iconic gold Buddha statue to the lounge for martinis. It's a space of pretty people with mood lighting so dark you can barely see your edamame appetizer.

Where to hang: Many young Ukrainians choose to hang and sip local brew

in the famous Independence Square. Home of Ukraine's Orange Revolution, it's both a historic square and popular spot for a cheap and cheerful night out.

Drinking openly in the streets is common, so many spend their summer evenings relaxing on the steps near the Globus Shopping Centre, cracking open a beer and people watching.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Metro Drive

Greener wheels for Coke

Wouldn't you like to have your Coke with a dash of green? Now you can. Soft drink giant Coca-Cola has placed an order for 185 hybrid transport vehicles with truck manufacturer Kenworth, Canadian Driver reports. The delivery trucks are expected to hit the road this year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Service in time saves dime

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada



We've all felt the current recession's sting in one way or another, and an honest reaction would be to try and save as much money as possible by doing things ourselves rather than paying someone else. Doing basic maintenance and repairs on your vehicle can be simple. However, they have become so complicated in recent years that you can get in a lot of trouble very easily if something goes wrong.

Gary Grant, service manager at Willowdale Subaru in Toronto, and an automotive expert who currently contributes to TheGarageBlog.com and Driven-Wheels.com, advises: "Do a bit of research. Read the maintenance section of the owner's manual. Understand what the manufacturer considers important. Because we live in Canada, follow the manufacturer's 'severe' service schedule," he said.

"I'm often asked, 'Can't I do that myself?' My response is usually something along the lines of, 'I don't know. I'm not sure of what skills you have.' For the most part, the basics



Apart from simple do-it-yourself checks, it's important to know and take care of those aspects of vehicles that need regular maintenance to avoid costly repairs in the future, car expert Gary Grant advises.

like oil changes haven't changed in terms of difficulty. However, oil changes are more important now than ever due to tighter build tolerances in engines. Do them on time. Don't reach for the cheap filter, buy the good one. Don't miss an interval, ever."

Grant said that tire rotation could be a realistic task for those with proper equipment.

Riding the Recession

CarCareCanada.ca, a website that helps consumers understand more about their own vehicles, suggests other simple tasks that you can do yourself.

First, ensure that all your lights are functioning prop-

"If you don't understand what the service adviser is telling you, ask for more details. Don't agree to something you don't understand or feel skeptical about."

Gary Grant, Subaru service manager

erly, including turn signals and brake lights. These are usually very easy to replace if they're burnt out. Next, check all the fluid levels un-

der your hood, including engine oil, windshield washer, anti-freeze/coolant and transmission fluid. Check the terminals on

your vehicle's battery for corrosion, and if you find some, have your technician clean them the next time your car's in for service.

Wiper blades and the frames themselves are also very easy to change, and you can purchase replacements at any auto parts store.

CarCareCanada.ca also recommends keeping good tire pressure to ensure your vehicle performs as it's supposed to, including fuel mileage.

Preventative maintenance is also vital to keeping your vehicle in top shape, and only a drop in the bucket compared to what you might pay if something goes horribly wrong.

"There are more than a few tales of consumers buying a new engine at 50,000 km because they missed a couple of oil changes and the engine failed," Grant warned.

Educating yourself is key. "Learn the meaning behind some common automotive terms so you understand what the service adviser is telling you," Grant recommends. "If you don't understand what the service adviser is telling you, ask for more details. Don't agree to something you don't understand or feel skeptical about."

Intelligent Elantra got most drivers covered

JILL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada



With cars, size isn't everything. When hatchbacks are thoughtfully designed, they'll hold a lot more than their small footprints would suggest. That's the case with Hyundai's newest compact version, the 2009 Elantra Touring.

This isn't just an Elantra sedan with a liftgate, as was

the case with the Elantra Hatchback, last seen for 2006. It's a model known as the i30 in Europe, Australia and Asia, and while it shares the Elantra's 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine, it has a different platform. European models are built in the Czech Republic, while ours come from Korea.

Four trim lines range from \$14,995 to \$21,195, with an extra \$1,200 on each to switch from five-

speed manual to four-speed automatic.

At 138 horsepower, the Touring isn't the most powerful in the segment, but this isn't really a category for brute strength. It feels lively enough, even when climbing hills, and gets loud only when punched hard to get around highway traffic.

Handling is much better than expected, with nicely-weighted steering, minimal

body lean in corners, small steering wheel, and smooth return from sharp curves. The ride is firm, but while you feel bumps on bad roads, the suspension doesn't crash over them.

The base L trim line comes with power windows and locks, but you must move up to the Preferred Package, at \$2,250 more, to get A/C, keyless entry, heated seats, side and curtain airbags, anti-



lock brakes, and active front head restraints, which help prevent whiplash. What's missing on all models is electronic stability

control. It's standard or optional elsewhere, including the U.S., but not offered here because it would have pushed the price too high, Hyundai Canada says.



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Law & Order: SVU's Mariska Hargitay is on the road to recovery, and will likely be solving on-screen crimes again soon. Hargitay was hospitalized for the third time last week for discomfort related to a collapsed lung, which she suffered in January. TVGUIDE.COM

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



New Moon

Kristen Stewart thinks *New Moon* will be "bigger and better" than *Twilight*. The actress is about to reprise her role as Bella Swan in the second installment of the vampire franchise. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

The cure for a crisis

Knowing and other fantasy films offer escape from reality

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada



Last week saw the release of Zack Snyder's *Watchmen*, a mammoth, morally dubious superhero saga whose dramatic arc rests on questions of sacrificing mankind in order to save it.

And now we have cult filmmaker Alex Proyas' blockbuster science fiction thriller *Knowing* — out next Friday — a picture that veers into apocalyptic dread and alien paranoia but in its subtext, is really offering a shocking solution to our planet's myriad of cultural, economical and environmental problems.

It's a classic case of using fantasy to cloak sophisticated musings on reality.

Since cinema started, periods of social, political and, yes, financial stress have caused some of the most profound and thoughtful genre movies to come crawling out of the ether, offering both glossy escape from reality and hard stares directly into it.

This was true in the 1920s in Germany, when the battered post-First World War youth culture gave birth to the nightmarish films of the expressionist movement, which led to the Great Depression sparked advent of earthy, gothic horror films in the

Movie feature

U.S.

The 1950s saw a McCarthy paranoia fuelled populace wither under an onslaught of allegorical alien invasion thrillers, while in the early 1970s, as the news spat out violent images of Vietnam, people gravitated toward mind-bending techno-shockers that showed mankind at its morally lowest.

And now, as North America struggles to dig itself out from under a seemingly unyielding economic crisis and with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan continuing to rack up casualties, multi-

plexes are being besieged by a new wave of anxious, dark and ultimately fascinating films, pictures that offer a bleak world view coupled with elements of the supernatural and metaphysical.

"What I've always liked about the fantasy, horror and science fiction genres is that it heightens the background noise of the characters," says Proyas — who also directed *Dark City* and *The Crow* — about the genre he chiefly toils in.

"It gives people them an extreme version of the real world to see how people react in it. But no matter how strange events can get, it's always about the



Rose Byrne, left, and Nicolas Cage star in a scene from the upcoming film *Knowing*, which opens in theatres next Friday.

humanity. Sometimes you really have to look deeply for it, but it's always there, driving the story."

Film is, and always will be a mirror and though the heavy shadow of recession

looms large, some comfort lies in the promise that because of this, Hollywood might continue releasing lavish entertainments that actually challenge and confront us.



what's cooking

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Anna the alien

ABC's V reboot has found its alien leader, and her face is familiar to sci-fi fans. Morena Baccarin — Firefly's Inara and Stargate SG-1's Adria — has landed the lead role of Anna, says the Hollywood Reporter. [TVGUIDE.COM](#)



Gimmick's up for Jason

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada



Gimmicky challenges and his own gimmicky designs finally brought Hamilton designer Jason Meyers' journey to a halt on last night's episode of Project Runway Canada.

Last night's unusual material of choice was Post-It notes and designers were challenged to use the sticky paper strips to create a dress for a breast cancer survivor. Meyers, 31, used fluorescent yellow and pink Post-Its to create an enormous gown that judges called "a train wreck" and he was booted.

He says doing the show was a great learning experience that forced him to think differently and gave him a chance to share ideas with like-minded individuals.

"It was definitely a growing experience as a design-



Designer Jason Meyers was sent home from Project Runway Canada last night.

er for me. I developed more and it was cool to see different techniques and styles from the other designers," Meyers said.

Iman and the other judges frequently referred to Meyers as a "gimmicky" designer, but he insists he just did his best with challenges that were innately strange, like using old wedding dresses for fabric or making a gown out of Post-It notes.

"The challenges I found were gimmicky themselves, so I kind of just went for it," Meyers said.

Tasked with creating a camouflage dress in week one, Meyers built a dress

with a tail that could be pulled over the model's head to hide her. In another week, Meyers sewed in thumb fasteners across the surface of a dress to let it go from day to evening by having the model clip parts of it up or down.

He admits time and budget constraints were the biggest challenge on the show and he's proud of having made it as far as he did.

"We only had one zipper and \$100 to buy fabric — that was really hard. I didn't give up and tried to work through it as best as I could," Meyers said.

Meyers is proudest to

have won week two's challenge, when Canadian actress Elisha Cuthbert picked his classic, black Hollywood dress for herself to wear, calling it "beautifully made."

Unlike some of the designers who engaged in back-biting drama on the show, Meyers says his goal was always to be a neutral force and focus on his own work. "I just tried to do my own thing. I wouldn't sabotage anybody because we're all there for the same reason," Meyers said.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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Hell hath no fury like a Facebook ex scorned

INTERNET Breaking up is hard enough, but making that split when your lives are intertwined in the sticky interweb of social networking technology requires new breakup skills.

Cynthia (not real name, too embarrassed) managed the initial separation with her boyfriend. But she can't Facebook break up with him.

"I avoid posting things with boys in them just in case he gets jealous, and then other times I do post things with boys just to make him jealous," she says. "I'm a whack job, I know."

In the days, weeks and now months since ending things, the former couple has used the social networking site to communicate peripherally and spy on each other. Her friends say they are close to an intervention.

"I'm stalking him," admits Cynthia. "And he's stalking me. And I know he is, so I do things because I know that he's looking."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

How to survive

Here is how you can avoid ending up like Cynthia:

- Step 1: Break up. You can do it in any fashion: Through a handsome display of calligraphy; with or without lawyers; a staring-contest, the winner of which keeps the dog; by telegraph or notarized letter; Woody Allen-style (never recommended) or just a good old-fashioned face-to-face breakup.

- Step 2: Divide friends. It's going to happen anyway. Friends will ditch you because they like your wife better. Better to make it official.

- Step 3: Unfriend and block. That online contact is a set of car keys when you have had too much to drink. Hand over the keys before you find yourself making bad decisions at 3 a.m. Say your weepy goodbyes, go to the privacy settings, and enter your ex's name under people to block. You won't be able to hear from them, search for them or see their presence. And they won't be able to see you.

When to watch

- Project Runway Canada airs on Tuesday nights on Global.



For March 10th

- 8 Taylor Swift - Love Story
- 7 Jason Mraz - I'm Yours
- 6 Classified - Anybody Listening
- 5 Karl Wolf F. Culture - Africa
- 4 Soulja Boy F Sammie - Kiss Me Through The Phone
- 3 All American Rejects - Gives You Hell
- 2 Akon F Colby O'Donis & Kardinal Offishal - Beautiful
- 1 Flo Rida - Right Round
- 1 Eminem F 50 Cent & Dr. Dre - Crack A Bottle

WE WANT YOU!

You could guest host the Interactive NINE@9 with Special Ed. Email: special@1013thebounce.com



HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
3/11/09	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Scrubs	Scrubs	Lost "LaFleur"	Life on Mars
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)	Lost "LaFleur"	Law Order: CI	
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went	Being Erica (N) (DVS)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (SC)	Les Invincibles (SC)	Le Téléjournal	
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Old Christine	Criminal Minds (N)	CSI: NY	
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées (SC)	Domages et intérêts (SC)	TVA 22 heures	
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	(8:02) Life on Mars	Lie to Me "Do No Harm"	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		News (N)	
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY "Green Piece"	Criminal Minds (N)	American Idol		News (N)	
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk	Fuelin' Around	EastLink Television	
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me "Do No Harm"	American Idol		Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Chopping Block (N)	Life "Shelf Life" (N)	Law Order: CI	
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Capricorn	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	The Story of India	"Beginnings" (DVS)	Highland Heartbeat			
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Paul Simon: Library of Congress	Gershwin	Denver-Wildlife Concert		
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)	450 chemin	Rire et délire	Wipeout (SC)	Bob Gratton	Bob Gratton	110 pour cent	
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitz	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Cooper 360	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Golf Fix	Lessons	19th Hole (N)	Top 10	WGC-AmEx Champ. Highlights	Haney Project
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet Con.	Baseball World Classic -- Teams TBA. From Rogers Centre in Toronto. (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Baseball
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	Hardcore Champ. Fight	World Cup of Poker	Aussie Millions '09		Score Tonight	
sports	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey Tampa Bay Lightning at	Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)			Curling: Tim Hortons Brier	
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10: Alien	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Daily Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad
	26	26	26	TREE	Wonder Pets	Big & Small	Backyardigans	Night Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	In Real Life (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Rio" (HDTV)	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Canadian Geographic		Living Legends: El Salvador	APTN National News: Contact	Miywayawin	
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live				Soul Plane ★★ (2004, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Tom Arnold.		Harlem Heights	
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield
family	25	25	25	CMT	All About ...	All About ...	CMT's Greatest "Interviews"		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas		The Simpsons	South Park
	153	153	153	COURT	Struggle for Justice		World's Wildest Police Videos		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Declassified Josef Stalin.	Police Videos
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Austin Stevens Adventures (N)	Deadliest Catch	Mayday	
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable
	46	46	46	HIST	Outlaw Bikers		NCIS "Missing"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Born to Be	Born to Be	America's Best Dance Crew		Redemption	Redemption	Brit Awards '09	
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	40 Hottest Hotties of the '90s	
	201	201	201	M1	(6) Rails & Ties (2007)		August Rush ★★ (2007, Drama) Freddie Highmore.				10,000 B.C. ★ (2008, Adventure)	
	48	23	23	OLN	American Gladiators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	The Bourne Supremacy ★★★ (2004, Suspense)		Fresh Prince	
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:15) Ghost Story		(8:15) Carrie ★★★ (1976, Horror) Sissy Spacek.				Scream 2 ★★★ (1997, Horror)	
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	The Guard (HDTV)	Big Love
	40	40	40	SLICE	The Mom Show		Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval	Stormworld
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Fight Night	
	57	98	98	STAR	etalk	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist	Tonight Show
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Untold Stories of the E.R.		My Shocking Story		I Eat 33,000 Calories a Day	Mystery Diag.
	56	34	34	TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Family Guy
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Humana	Mixeur	Stand-By ★★ (2000, Drame) Dominique Blanc, Roschdy Zem.		Peur	
	28	28	28	V	Side Effects		Murder, She Wrote "Roadkill"		Summer Wine	Foot in Grave	SOUL "My Way" (N)	Driven-Vision
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Medium "In the Rough"		Medium	Mediums
	22	22	22	W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery	Supersize vs. Superskinny	Stuck "Food"
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "By Accident"	WGN News

critics'corner

The Chopping Block

Two teams of eight compete in culinary challenges for a shot at the grand prize: a chance to open their own restaurant. The first competition pits them against each other to create a menu for host Marco Pierre White to judge by the end of the day. After less than 48 hours, the contestants must open their restaurants for service. 9 PM on NBC



Brit Awards '09

Kylie Minogue and comedy duo James Corden and Mathew Horne share hosting duties for this British music awards gala. Coldplay and Duffy went in as the leaders with four nominations each. The special features performances by U2, Kings of Leon and Girls Aloud, with the Pet Shop Boys performing a medley of their hits to celebrate their award for outstanding contribution to music. 4 PM on MM

Stuck

Making life changes such as losing weight always goes better with a buddy. In this reality series, the women featured — who range in age from 28 to 52 — are all one another's buddies in their various quests to get out of their ruts. Each episode follows them as they get some expert instruction in forming healthier habits and support one another's efforts. In this episode, it's all about healthy eating and getting in shape. 11 PM on W



On Wednesday, Anne Heche's two-year divorce battle with Coley Laffoon came to an end. Although they reached a settlement last June, it took another nine months to hammer out custody details and the split of their assets, reports people.com. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

Rihanna & Brown recording a duet?

MUSIC Rihanna and Chris Brown are recording a duet, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple — who have reconciled after Brown allegedly assaulted Rihanna in his rented Lamborghini car last month — are said to be working on a song for Brown's new album, which is due out later this year.

A source said: "They've been working on it together."

The pair is believed to be recording with producer Polow Da Don — who wrote the Pussycat Dolls hit Buttons — in a Santa Monica studio. Neither Brown nor Rihanna's representatives have commented on

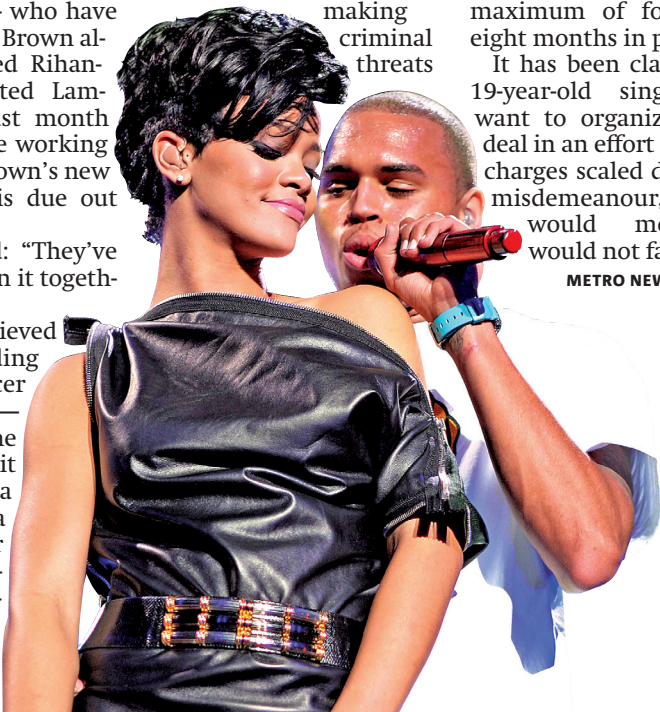
the claims.

Last week, Chris was charged with two felonies — assault and making criminal threats

— in relation to the alleged attack on Rihanna. He is yet to enter a plea, but if convicted he faces a maximum of four years eight months in prison.

It has been claimed the 19-year-old singer may want to organize a plea deal in an effort to get the charges scaled down to a misdemeanour, which would mean he would not face jail.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Victoria won't have baby while David away

FAMILY Victoria Beckham has reportedly told husband David she won't have another baby while he is living in Italy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Although the soccer hunk is keen to have a fourth child, the former Spice Girl has reportedly told him it is not feasible while he is playing soccer for AC Milan and she and their three sons are living in the

U.S., where Beckham was playing for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

A source said: "The baby issue is a bit of a sore point. In Victoria's eyes it's not the right time. David's future with Los Angeles Galaxy is so uncertain that planning for another child is, in Victoria's eyes, premature. First, they need to sort out where they are going to be living."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Barton talks about beau on her blog

RELATIONSHIP Mischa Barton took to her blog yesterday to clear the air about her recent split with musician beau, Luke Pritchard, popeater.com reports. Although she says the two will remain friends, Barton wrote that "the bad just started to outweigh the good and a long distance relationship is never an easy thing to do."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Sets for Blunt's new film were 'realistic'

CAREER Emily Blunt says sets on her new movie were so realistic they made her "heave," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress plays a crime scene cleaner in independent comedy Sunshine Cleaning and admits the stench while filming some scenes almost overpowered her.

"Oh, they were realistic. Particularly the trailer park one — that was gag-making. We walked on set and I felt myself heave, as it really did smell," she said.

"And we had a fly wrangler on set. He breathes smoke on them, and they get a bit hazy and are not quite so sprightly — I don't

know how he does it."

To prepare for the movie, Blunt and her co-star Amy Adams became "obsessed" with watching crime shows on TV — but admits their plan to get used to the grisly setting was unsuccessful.

She added to the New York Daily News newspaper: "It didn't really help when it came to the gore and dealing with the decomposition. So a guy came in who did it for a living to talk to us. He was very clinical and showed us what he does. He relished showing us some of the horrific pictures and hearing us screeching at them."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Miley's health condition

HEALTH Miley Cyrus has a condition called tachycardia, which causes her heart rate to speed up, she reveals in her new autobiography, Miles to Go, usmagazine.com reports.

"The type of tachycardia I have isn't dangerous. It won't hurt me, but it does bother me," she writes. "There is never a time on stage when I'm not thinking about my heart."

Cyrus also dedicates a chapter to her "Prince Charming," who appears to be ex Nick Jonas. "Wow!

I was so in love," she says. "Do you know what I'm talking about? The kind of love where the sun could shine or not shine all day long and you wouldn't care."

After they split, she penned 7 Things I Hate About You. "I wanted to punish him, to get back at him for hurting me. It starts with a list of what I 'hate.' But I'm not a hater. My heart knew from the start that it was going to turn into a love song. Why does he get a love song? Because I don't hate him."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Octuplets set to go home soon

PEOPLE As they grow stronger in the hospital, Nadya Suleman's octuplets are getting closer to coming home to a larger, recently purchased house — where it looks like they'll have a free fleet of skilled nurses, people.com reports.

The Suleman family is buying a house in Orange County, Calif., that's nearly twice as large as the one where Nadya, 33, the mother of the U.S.'s longest-surviving octuplets, lives with her six older children in Whittier.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Parton criticizes Simpson scrutiny

GOSSIP Dolly Parton — whom Jessica Simpson has described as her idol — is glad scrutiny on the 28-year-old singer's weight seems to be dying down, usmagazine.com reports.

"She's obviously an amazing and talented singer — and one with real heart," Parton told usmagazine.com Monday at the Broadway opening night of 33 Variations. "I just wish people would focus on her voice — that's what she's doing. That's why she's so special. She's a beautiful girl."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Clarkson too busy for relationships

PEOPLE Kelly Clarkson insists her plate is too full of hit singles and concert dates to be thinking about actual dates or marriage right now. In a new interview, the My Life Would Suck Without You singer also says the nature of her job is "too selfish" for her to be having kids.

"Oh, my God, I have no desire. I would not be a good mother," popeater.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Richie unsure about marriage

RELATIONSHIP Nicole Richie is unsure whether she will marry Joel Madden, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 27-year-old star — who has 14-month old daughter Harlow with Joel, and is currently expecting her second child with him — is content with her relationship and refuses to plan too far ahead.

"I don't know about the future.

I make it a custom not to plan the future. I may plan to and I may not," she said. Despite having no plans to walk down the aisle in the near future, Nicole is totally committed to Joel.

Asked to name the Good Charlotte rocker's three best qualities, she replied: "Good father! Talented musician! Good personality!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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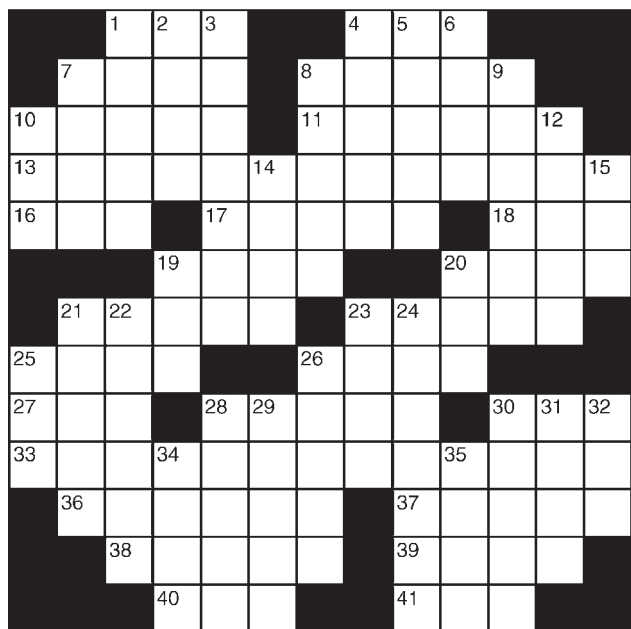
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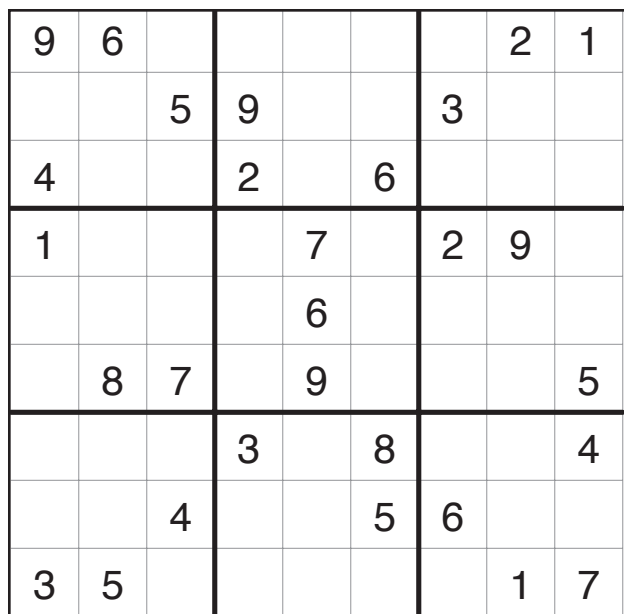
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



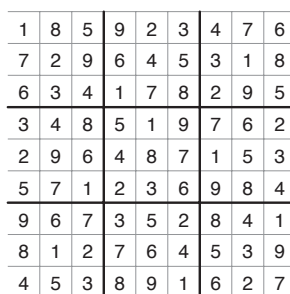
Crossword across

- 1 Ruin the veneer
- 4 Turf
- 7 Asian desert
- 8 Garden intruder
- 10 "Peer Gynt" composer
- 11 Go ashore
- 13 Where the Tar River flows
- 16 Hawaiian musicmaker
- 17 Rock opera by The Who
- 18 Encyclopedia bk.
- 19 Courts
- 20 Bigfoot's cousin
- 21 Metallic noise
- 23 Senses
- 25 Unyielding
- 26 Minimal change
- 27 Two, in Tijuana
- 28 Dieter's entree
- 30 "Gee, ya think?"
- 33 Neil Diamond classic
- 36 Checked cotton fabric
- 37 Like Chicago, it's said
- 38 Mah-jongg pieces
- 39 Therefore
- 40 Roulette bet
- 41 Rotation duration

Crossword down

- 1 Ripple pattern
- 2 Help a prankster
- 3 "You betcha!"
- 4 Whale variety
- 5 "Wow!"
- 6 Use an old phone
- 7 Understand, in sci-fi lingo
- 8 Washington's successor
- 9 Nonsense
- 10 Wildebeest
- 12 Entanglements
- 14 Diner employee
- 15 Foreman foe
- 19 Pale
- 20 Still
- 21 Throng
- 22 Go postal
- 23 Phobia
- 24 Provided an income for
- 25 Egos' counterparts
- 26 Sculpting mediums
- 28 Subway entrance
- 29 Played a part
- 30 Unclean
- 31 Destroy
- 32 "Yo!"
- 34 Eastern potentate
- 35 Old Italian money

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Spring Salmon and Asparagus

INGREDIENTS:

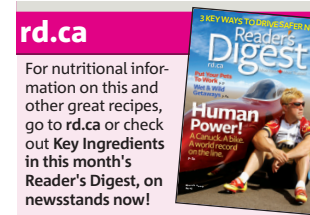
- 4 skinless salmon fillets, about 5 oz (140 g) each
- 7 oz (200 g) leeks
- 1/2 lb (250 g) tender asparagus spears
- 5 oz (150 g) sugar-snap peas
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) dry white wine
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) fish or vegetable stock
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) butter, diced
- Salt and fresh-ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) snipped fresh chives

METHOD:

1. Run fingertips over salmon to check for stray bones, pulling out any that remain between flakes of fish. Arrange leeks in single layer in bottom of large, shallow

flameproof casserole. Lay pieces of salmon on top. Surround fish with asparagus and sugar-snap peas. Pour in wine and stock, and dot butter over fish. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
2. Bring to boil, then cover casserole with tight-fitting lid and reduce heat so liquid simmers gently. Simmer fish and vegetables until salmon is pale pink all through and vegetables are fork-tender, 12 to 14 minutes. Sprinkle chives over the salmon.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You're like an acrobat with no safety net. Make a comedy of a bad situation. It's not a good time to clean your closets.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Your charm gets in the way of facing problems. Take care of pressing business. Make progress toward forgiveness.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A sleazy guy should be avoided. A loathsome monster lashes out at incompetence. You hold the future in your hands.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
An anguished person will listen carefully. An accomplice reminds you to make a call. The rumour mill is rife with speculation.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't bet on getting an inheritance. Take the initiative in making a fresh start. A secret meeting will clarify needs and desires.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Be creative when wishing for success. Your best friend is a lucky charm. A significant caller gives you some practical support.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A smart remark causes a volatile situation. Look for closure in a failed endeavor. There's sorrow behind a sudden departure.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Be patient with a delicate friendship. Your situation is about to improve drastically. Don't be sarcastic when acting as a matchmaker.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A slender person is telling the truth. A woman will be open to a wonderful possibility. An attractive stranger wants to start a family.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't leave a friend alone in the dark. A therapeutic investment will pay off. Carefully monitor a reckless attitude.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A sweetheart has been through some bad weather. Walk down Memory Lane with a serious person. Don't accept less than you deserve.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A fallen colleague's questions must be answered. A lonely person helps you learn to stop clinging. Check with a friend you haven't heard from lately.

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\$21,777*
Was \$36,020 New!



2008 Grand Caravan DVD Edition

Factory DVD, Pwr Window Group, P Seat, Pw, Pdl, Three Zone Climate Control, A/C, Cruise, Tilt, Backup Camera, Stow 'N' Go, Low Kms

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2008 Grand Caravan SE

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~~\$19,995~~
\$17,777*
Was \$30,495 New!

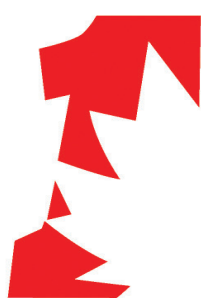


2008 Grand Caravan SE

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